ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

52   A network of computers communicate with each other and with a
single system manager computer in accordance with the QNX
operating system to perform a series of related tasks. When
computers at a number of sites running the operating system boot
up, they have resident software that will read a hardware
configuration switch that is external to the computer. After
reading the switch, the hardware node ID is used as the host ID
portion of the IP address. Once a network computer is configured
with the correct IP address, communication with other computers
on the network can begin. Each QNX node will access the System
Manager hard disk to access executables and files using the SMB
(Server Message Block) file sharing protocol. If the hardware
node ID does not match the current software logic node ID as
specified by the QNX system, then the proper QNX files will be
retrieved from the System Manager and the QNX node will then
reboot itself. At this point, each QNX node will execute the
proper software by utilizing the unique logic node ID as a
reference to load software to the node.

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